TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 7, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 2 totaled 18.0 billion ton-miles, up 6.9 percent from the 16.8 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987. The 1988 week included the Good Friday holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 13 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 241.6 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended April 2 totaled 405,245, up 4.2 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 6.0 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 10.0 percent in the West, while loadings in the East were down 0.9 percent.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups decreased. Coal loadings were up by 13,171 cars (13.5 percent), grain showed a gain of 7,195 cars (27.3 percent), and metals and products increased by 2,393 cars (25.2 percent). Sixteen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding non-holiday week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended March 26 totaled 109,784 trailers and/or containers, up 1.0 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 12 weeks of the year was 1,286,795 trailers and/or containers, up 5.2 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/2/88:

	Loadings in Week ended April 2, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	33,520	I	7,195	27.3	D	2,243	6.3
Other farm products	3,101	D	89	2.8	D	320	9.4
Metallic ores	15,802	I	1,903	13.7	I	1,982	14.3
Coal	110,558	I	13,171	13.5	D	12,585	10.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,025	I	792	5.6	D	909	5.7
Nonmetallic minerals	9,396	D	954	9.2	D	531	5.3
Grain mill products	9,824	D	1,040	9.6	D	891	8.3
Food and kindred products	10,523	D	640	5.7	D	554	5.0
Primary forest products	9,464	D	537	5.4	D	793	7.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,422	I	100	1.2	D	111	1.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,394	D	389	3.0	D	298	2.3
Chemicals and allied products	26,226	D	1,897	6.7	D	2,970	10.2
Petroleum products	4,278	D	517	10.8	D	721	14.4
Stone, clay and glass products	10,530	D	106	1.0	D	626	5.6
Coke	5,321	I	190	3.7	D	334	5.9
Metals and products	11,886	I	2,393	25.2	I	813	7.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,492	D	3,123	15.1	D	3,925	18.3
Waste and scrap materials	9,205	I	547	6.3	D	901	8.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,665	D	49	1.8	I	81	3.1
All other carloads	79,613	D	523	0.7	I	18	0.02
Total Cars Loaded	405,245	I	16,427	4.2	D	25,818	6.0
Corresponding week of 1987	388,818						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (13 weeks)	5,363,881	5,068,477	I 5.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
12 weeks ended March 26	223.6	209.6	I 6.7
Week ended April 2	18.0	16.8	I 6.9
13 Weeks cumulative	241.6	226.4	I 6.7

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